

INTELLOFAX 8

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Used (Maritime and)

DATE 10/27/51 27 AUG 51

SUBJECT Korean Contract Laborers in the Kavalerovo Area

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.		25X1
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. On 28 September 1947 about 700 Koreans who had contracted to work in the Soviet Union left Hungnam aboard a 3,000-ton Soviet warship, which also carried about 800 bags of rice. At Hungnam the Koreans had been told to destroy all paper in their possession, except their boat tickets and contracts.*
 2. On 1 October the ship anchored about 11 miles from shore at Tetyukhe (135-51, 44-22), where Soviet officials came aboard and distributed new cotton clothing to the Koreans and threw their old clothes into the ocean. The Soviets also checked the contracts and baggage of the workers. Four wooden boats, carrying 120 men each, transported the Koreans to the shore, since there were no dock facilities at Tetyukhe, which was a small village of about 70 or 80 houses. From the wooden boats the Koreans were put off on a wooden pier which ran over the edge of the water for some distance. There was no checking ashore other than checking names against the passenger list.
 3. From Tetyukhe the Koreans were taken to the various places where they were to work. Before World War II there were Koreans in this area raising potatoes, barley and wheat, but they were deported to the central part of the Soviet Union. The following places had Korean laborers as of October 1949:
 - a. Kavaleroovo (135-05, 44-16) is the administrative center for the district and has a population of 1,300, of which 200 are Koreans. The central offices of the mines and lumber mills are here, as well as an airport.
 - b. Nefuchin, about five miles north of Kavaleroovo, has a population of 1,000, of which 200 are Koreans. About 75 percent of the laborers work in the coal mine and 25 percent as lumbermen. About 300 Soviets and 150 Koreans work the mine. Twice a week a General Motors truck comes to take the ore to the railroad station at Simonovka (about 135-00, 44-10).
 - c. Furustari, four miles west of Kavaleroovo, has about 300 Koreans, all working in the graphite mine, which is supposed to be three times as large as the one at Nefuchin.

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Document No.

No Change in Class

Year	Percentage
1960	85%
1970	87%
1980	88%
1990	89%
2000	91%

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- d. Kenchuka, about two and one half miles south of Kavaleroovo, has about 100 Koreans who carry charcoal and firewood and cut wood.
- e. Nakhainy, 43 miles south of Kavaleroovo, has about 300 Koreans working there.
4. In 1948 there were some Japanese prisoners-of-war stringing electric wire near Kavaleroovo, but they disappeared at the end of 1948. There was one German living with his Soviet wife in Nefuchin and raising bees.
5. There was no discrimination or friction between the Soviets and Koreans. Both made the same wages, about 10,000 rubles** a year. Five Koreans married Soviet soldiers' widows and remained in the USSR when the others returned to Korea.
6. Some of the Koreans had signed the contracts in order to get away from Korea, and because they had been told that in the Soviet Union everyone had enough to eat and wear and lived in fine homes. They were very much disappointed to find out that, at times, the Soviets were worse off than the Koreans. Many of the Koreans would have liked to return to Korea, but they had no money with which to finance the trip and, since their pay was so small they could not save enough, they gambled it away.
7. Electricity was on at Nefuchin from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 a.m., although it was on all the time at the factory, which employed a 300-horse power motor. Until October 1949, Nefuchin had its own generator. After that time electricity was furnished from Kenchuka for the entire area. There were five-tube radios for sale in the government stores.
8. Almost all types of commodities could be bought in the government-run stores, although often rice at 15 rubles per kilo, millet at 6 rubles per kilo, bear gall at 15 rubles per kilo and quinine at one ruble for three tablets were short. Bear gall and quinine were in great demand by the Koreans to cure malaria. Buying was limited by the type of work done, as follows:

Commodity	Quantity	Heavy Laborers***		Light Laborers	
		Price	Quota	Price	Quota
Sugar	3 kilos	1 ruble	15 kilos	45 rubles	9 kilos
Canned meat	2 large, 1 small cans	1 ruble	20 cans	55 rubles	15 cans
Sausage	3 kilos	1 ruble	20	75 rubles	15

9. Employees in the heavy industries, such as the mines and mills, were paid in chits of one, five, and ten units. Each unit was equal to 15 rubles in trade at the government store. Laborers often raised their own potatoes and cucumbers, which they sold more cheaply than the government store. Outside of that business there was no private enterprise at all.
10. Controls in the area were not strict. There was no curfew at all. Workers from Nefuchin often visited friends in neighboring town by leaving after work on Friday and returning before work time at 0700 hours Monday. They did not have to report their movements. For long trips, a travel permit was needed, but none of the Koreans ever obtained one. A travel permit could be gotten by applying to the factory or mine labor office, which would get it approved at the administrative headquarters. Civilians, such as worked in the government store or bread factory, had to go to Kavaleroovo to obtain a permit.

-2-

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-3-

11. One Korean was permitted to enter the army station, garrisoned by about 600 soldiers, at Kenchuka when he presented a letter from the factory doctor requesting that he be given treatment at the army hospital. The entrance to the station was guarded by soldiers and had a road-block of logs at which persons seeking to enter were stopped for identification.
12. No pass was needed at the factories or mines, but the administrative headquarters gave each man a number card to carry, with his name and contract number on it. It was not to be used as a pass, but primarily for identification at the store. Each worker was registered at the store so that the clerks would know how much of each commodity he was allowed to buy according to his type of work.
13. There was no house check in Wofuchin, but the families had to register once a year. When the Korean workers had visitors over night they did not have to register them. There were very few families in these communities, so that both the travel and living of the Koreans were done collectively, and individual passes or checks were not needed. Koreans were permitted to send mail for about one ruble per letter; it took a letter about 80 days to reach North Korea.
14. When the contract expired, the Koreans left by boat from Tetyukhe to Chongjin. Some Koreans had gambled all their money away and were unable to return. At Tetyukhe the Koreans had their contracts returned and were given a thorough baggage check. At Chongjin another check was made, and all above 70 kilos of baggage and 20 yards of cotton cloth was taken as a tax by the government.

* Comment: Although details of the contract were not given, it was probably similar to contracts given to Korean workers on Sakhalin and Kamchatka.

** Comment: The official ruble rate is four to one United States dollar. This wage is approximately the same as the yearly wage paid the Kamchatka fishermen.

*** Comment: The one ruble price probably refers to the chit system mentioned in paragraph 9. At this rate those engaged in heavy labor get a considerable reduction.

 Comment: The prices in paragraph 8 make the commodities practically "give-aways" for heavy laborers. Even at the 4:1 official ruble:dollar rate, the cost of 6.6 lbs of sausage (3kg) would be only 25¢, or 4¢ a pound; at the real purchasing value of the ruble it would be even less. On the other hand, the same amount of sausage would cost a light laborer \$18.75, or \$2.84 a pound. Meanwhile rice is 15 rubles (\$3.75) a kilo, or \$1.70 a pound. If the figures are taken to mean one-unit ruble-chits worth 15 rubles each, the theoretical value of 3 kg of sausage becomes 15 rubles (\$3.75) for heavy laborers but 1,125 rubles (\$281.25) for light laborers! Something is wrong with these figures.

-3-

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